

Puget Sound recovery update and opportunities for engagement



PUGET**SOUND**
PARTNERSHIP

WWW.PSP.WA.GOV

Briefing for Growth Management Policy Board (PSRC)

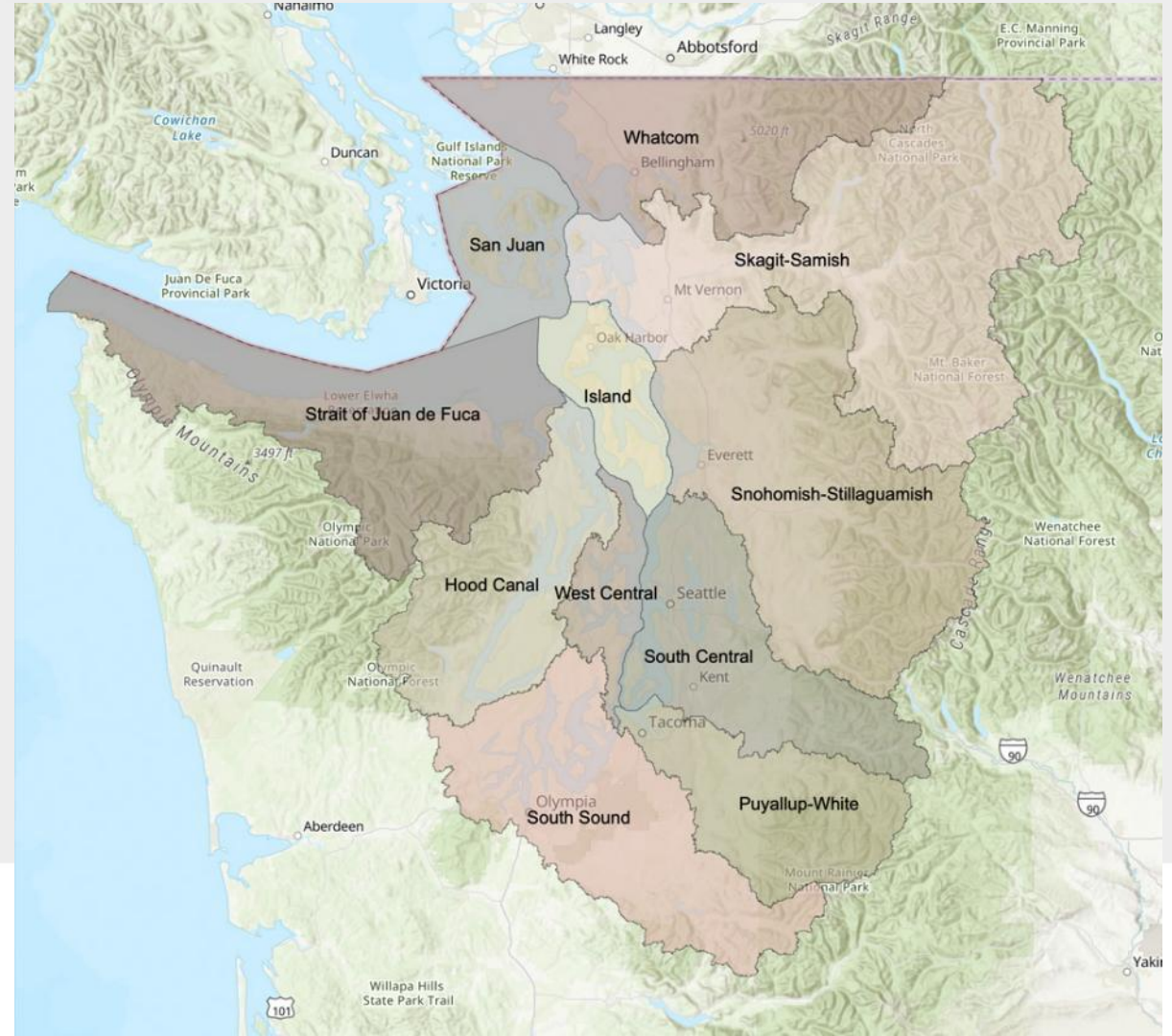
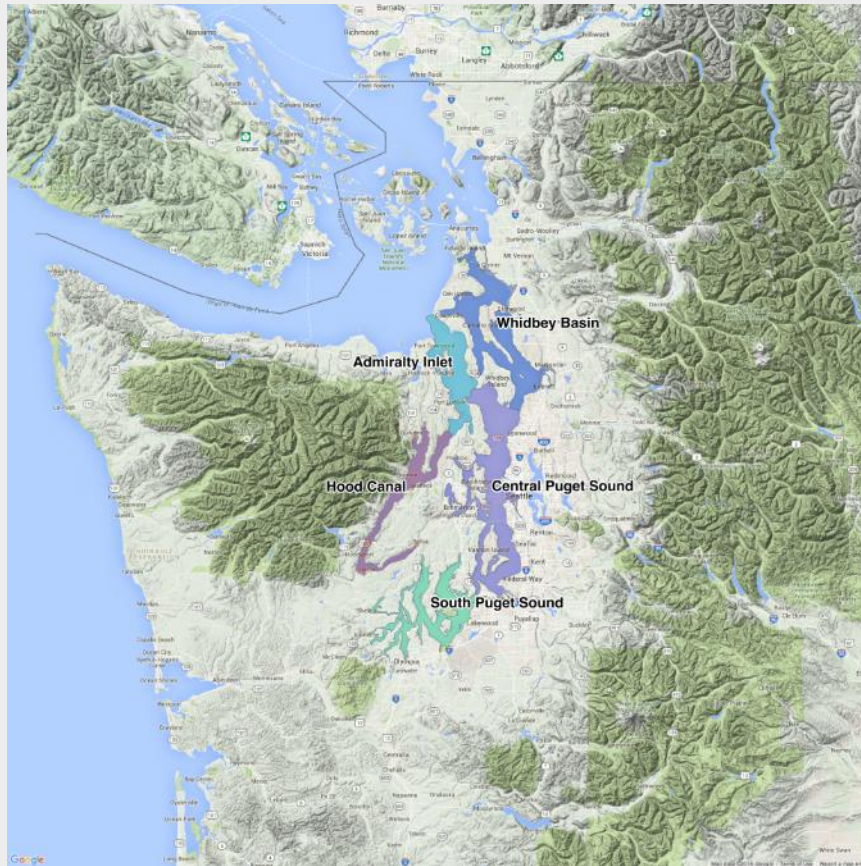
Mindy Roberts

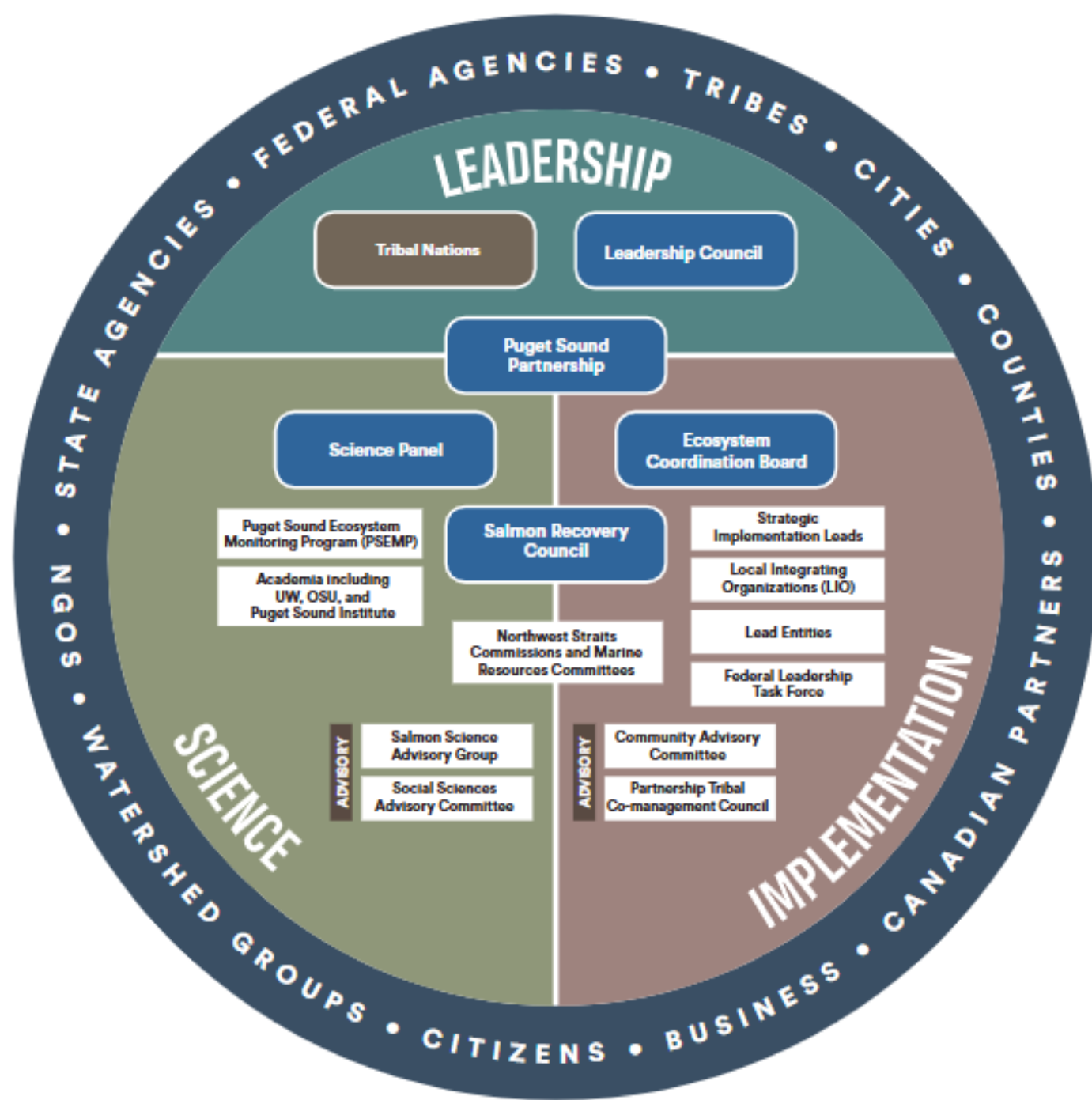
Executive Director

What does the Partnership do?

- Statute: State agency responsible for science-based ecosystem restoration and salmon recovery for the Puget Sound region
 - Functioning habitat, healthy water quality, thriving species and food webs, and a healthy human population with a vibrant quality of life
 - Lead planning for Puget Sound restoration and salmon recovery, support and accelerate the implementation of these plans, and provide monitoring and accountability on progress to achieve recovery goals
- Federal Clean Water Act designated National Estuary Program (voluntary actions)

Puget Sound and the Salish Sea





Partnership Teams

Science and Evaluation

Ecosystem Recovery

Implementation

Communications

Government Affairs

Internal Operations

- Vital Signs, salmon science
- plans, coordination, feedback loops
- boards, community, strategic funding
- Making Waves, State of the Sound, social media
- tribal, federal, state, transboundary
- fiscal, human resources, IT, admin, EPA work plan

Partnership funding and staffing

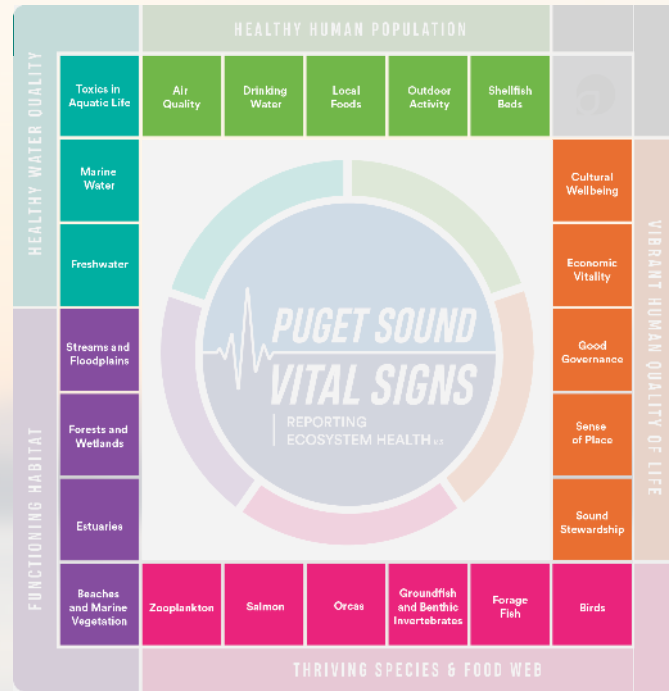
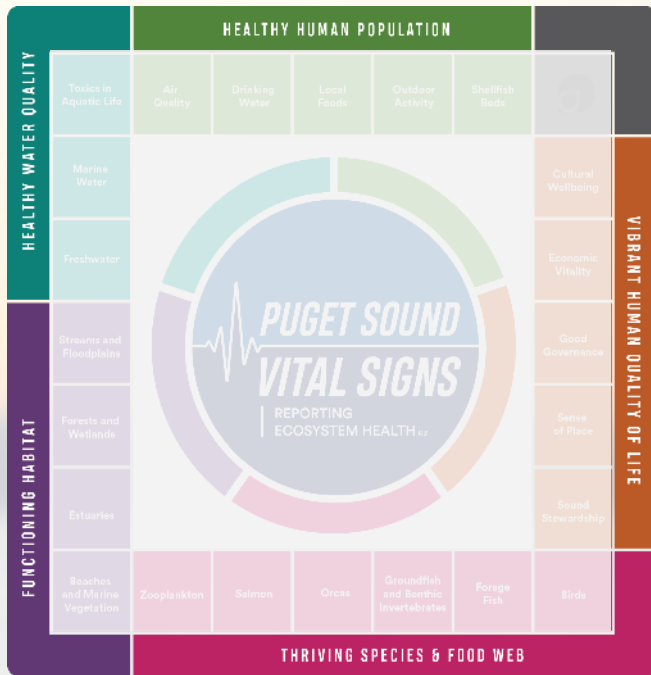
- 58% federal (personnel, contracts, travel, goods/services)
- 53 of 71 positions filled (Operating Budget pressure)
- Federal Puget Sound Geographic Program grew in FFY26
- Funds to other organizations



What do we mean by a healthy Puget Sound?



Vital Signs & Indicators: *What they are*



A few Partnership accomplishments...

- Helped secure >\$500 million in federal funding over the past 8 years (with Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission)
- National-level positive attention
 - Comprehensive plan and priorities for action – strategic collaboration
 - Tracking detailed actions and progress toward ecosystem health
- Strategic Funding Team helped dozens of applicants apply for funding, securing millions of dollars to implement Puget Sound recovery actions
- Improved healthy swimming beaches (setting an ambitious target and supporting the efforts to accomplish that target)



Examples of local
government engagement
with the Partnership

- Puget Sound Day on the Hill
- Ecosystem Coordination Board
- Salmon Recovery Council
- Input on priorities and plans

Nexus between growth management and Puget Sound recovery

- We succeed when you succeed
 - Old model – more people, more damage
 - New model – adding people while controlling and reversing damage
- 2026-2030 Puget Sound Action Agenda encourages sustainable land use – balancing the needs for housing, working lands, and the environment – through three strategies:
 - Smart Growth
 - Agricultural Land Protection
 - Working Forest Land Protection
- Example indicators on urban growth, housing diversity, infill development, and farmland protection

Housing diversity increasing regionally

BASICS

Puget Sound Indicator Name Housing diversity

Indicator Type Progress Indicator

Measurement Unit Percent (%)

Progress /Status



Progress Indicator Target

Topics [Smart Growth](#)

Progress Indicator Reporter No Reporter Selected

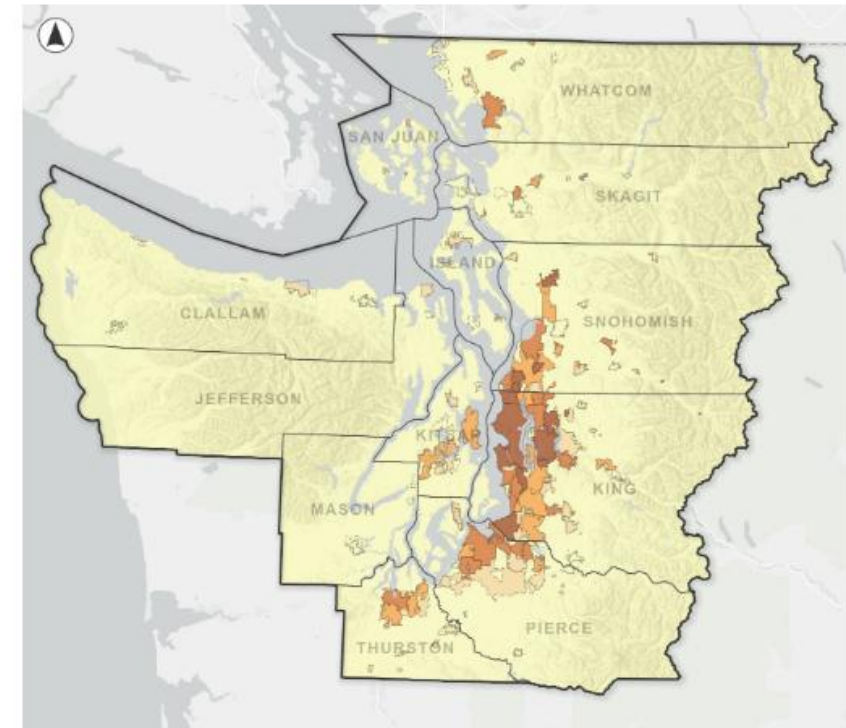
Contributing Partners

[BERK Consulting, Inc.](#)

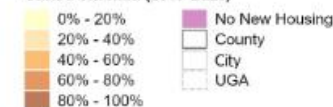
[Cascadia Consulting Group](#)

[Washington State Office
Of Financial Management](#)

MAP



Multi-unit Housing as a Percent of Total Housing Units Permitted (2017-2023)



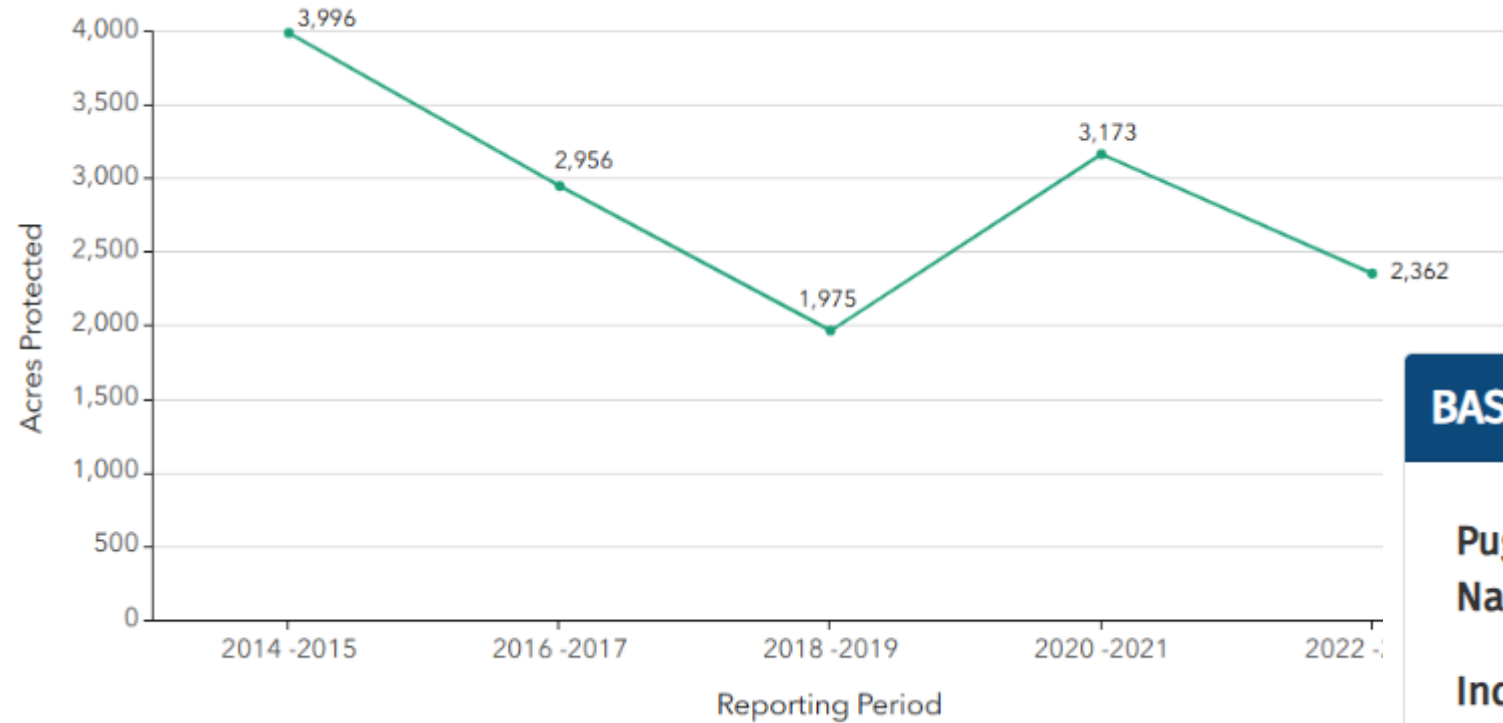
Data Sources: OFM Housing Unit Permit Estimates, 2017-2023; City/UGA Boundaries, WA Dept. of Ecology, 2023.

Notes: Calculations are summarized by jurisdiction with counties split by UGA and rural areas, using 2023 city/UGA boundaries.

Multi-unit housing as a percent of total housing units permitted in the Puget Sound region between 2017 through 2023.

Farmland protection getting worse

Acres Protected by Reporting Period



RELATED ONGOING PROGRAMS

- [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(USDA NRCS\)](#)
- [Office of Farmland Preservation \(OFP\) \(SCC\)](#)
- [Puget Sound Conservation Districts \(12\) \(SCC\)](#)

BASICS

Puget Sound Indicator Name Farmland protection

Indicator Type ⓘ Progress Indicator

Measurement Unit ⓘ Acre (acres)

Progress ⓘ/Status ⓘ



Opportunity – Partnership Strategic Funding Team



- Accelerate Puget Sound ecosystem and salmon recovery by addressing challenges in finding and securing funding
- Provide assistance for
 - grant writing
 - application review, funding opportunity review
 - grant application management
- In two years, fielded 96 requests, >\$8 million secured (about 20% from local entities)
- **For more information –** Puget Sound Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool (PS RAFT) – website, monthly Coffee Hour Funding Chats

Potential roles for enhancing Puget Sound engagement for local government – ideas!

- Examples:
 - Timely communications of funding opportunities (PSRAFT)
 - Convening solutions-oriented conversations to tackle sticky issues (land conversion, shoreline armoring, ...)
- *What else???*
 -
 -
 -

